YOUTH INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Youth Policies and Programmes Unit

The tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace (IYY), in 1995, will be the occasion for launching global activities to strengthen youth-related concerns in development activities. In this connection, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided, in its resolution 45/103, to devote a plenary meeting at its fiftieth session in 1995 to youth questions, in observance of the tenth anniversary of IYY. The major goals of the activities surrounding the tenth anniversary are the following:

- To prepare a world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond in accordance with proposals to be submitted by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations, and in consultation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The principal objective of the draft world youth programme of action is to provide a practical guide in a global framework for long-term national and regional action. The focus will be on identifying and elaborating existing and emerging youth issues;

- To prepare a calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of IYY. Promotional activities can include organizing meetings, publishing reports, launching competitions, promoting media events as well as cultural and educational programmes etc.;

- To prepare a review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the objectives of IYY.

An Expert Group Meeting on Youth met at Vienna from 9 to 13 December 1991 to assist the Secretariat in elaborating a preliminary draft of a world youth programme of action for the year 2000 and beyond. This draft is now being circulated to Member States and the United Nations agencies and bodies concerned, as well as non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations for revision. The revised draft will be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session in 1993 for discussion by its open-ended ad hoc working group on youth.

In the process of preparing for the tenth anniversary of IYY, Governments are invited: *(a)* to assess the situation and needs of youth in the light of changing circumstances and priorities; *(b)* to review and appraise progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of IYY objectives; *(c)* to elaborate a programme of substantive and information activities to mark the tenth anniversary; and *(d)* to develop and strengthen a national youth programme.

Young girls harvesting cotton in Nepal.

Published by United Nations Office at Vienna, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Role of UNOV/CSDHA in the tenth anniversary of IYY

The United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNOV/CSDHA), as the focal point for youth matters within the United Nations system, will coordinate activities marking the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year (IYY). In the framework of the tenth anniversary of the Year in 1995, the Centre will carry out the activities described below.

Substantive servicing of United Nations legislative bodies. UNOV/CSDHA will continue to provide substantive services to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission for Social Development. It will prepare reports of the Secretary-General to those bodies on the implementation of the objectives of IYY, the assessment of the situation of youth, and channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. A report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session is being prepared. In it the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the objectives and strategies of IYY will be analysed.

Collaboration with national coordinating mechanisms on youth. UNOV/CSDHA will continue to promote the establishment and strengthening of national coordinating mechanisms on youth and to establish close working relationships with them by direct correspondence and advisory assistance. In this regard, a questionnaire was sent to numerous national committees in April 1992 to ascertain their roles and functions, as well as their achievements and problems encountered.

Organization of and participation in meetings. UNOV/CSDHA will organize international expert and consultative meetings to facilitate the exchange of experience, identification of obstacles, and formulation of guidelines for the development and implementation of integrated national youth policies and programmes. It will also participate in, and make substantive contributions to, youth meetings and events organized by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Advisory services to Governments. Through the Interregional Adviser on Social Policies and Development, UNOV/CSDHA will provide advisory services to Governments, at their request, to assist them in developing long-term integrated national youth policies and programmes and in securing the effective integration of such policies and programmes in national development planning. Advisory services were recently provided to assist Swaziland in developing an integrated national youth policy.

United Nations Youth Fund. UNOV/CSDHA will continue to administer the United Nations Youth Fund, which provides support for regional and national action in the field of youth, particularly for catalytic and innovative activities of developing countries, with emphasis on the least developed countries.

Research. UNOV/CSDHA will carry out global research on youth issues and encourage action-oriented research. It is finalizing a global study on the situation of youth.

Communication and cooperation with youth and youth organizations. UNOV/CSDHA is seeking to strengthen channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations. A Youth Forum of the United Nations system was held at Vienna from 27 to 29 May 1991. It brought together approximately 150 representatives of national, regional and international youth non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. The basic objective of the Forum was to exchange views on ways and means of strengthening existing channels of communications. UNOV/CSDHA also provides substantive and technical assistance to the Vienna Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Youth.

Information and promotional activities. The information and promotional activities of CSDHA fall into the following main categories:

(a) Publicizing existing and emerging issues of concern to youth and developing relevant policy guidelines;

(b) Preparing and updating directories of national coordinating mechanisms on youth, annotated lists of centres and institutes engaged in youth research, directories of national, regional and international youth organizations etc.;

(c) Publishing the *Youth Information Bulletin*, issued three times a year in English, French and Spanish, and the *United Nations Youth Newsletter*, issued quarterly in English, French and Spanish.

UNOV/CSDHA is the coordinator of the Informal Inter-Agency Working Group at the Technical Level on Youth. Until 1995, the group will focus predominantly on the preparations for the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of IYY.

Contribution to the United Nations Youth Fund

The Austrian Government has made a contribution of S 124,000 (approximately $US 11,171) to the United Nations Youth Fund. Established in 1981 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/126, the Fund provided support mainly for activities related to preparations for IYY prior to and during its observance in 1985. Since 1985, the Fund has focused on supporting regional and national follow-up activities in the field of youth, particularly catalytic and innovative activities of benefit to youth, with special emphasis on the least developed countries.

The resources of the Fund are used for:

- Activities to strengthen policy-making and programme-planning capacities in the field of youth, including support for applied research and training;

- Technical cooperation activities in the field of youth at the request of Governments, particularly those of the least developed countries;

- Data collection, research and evaluation, and the exchange of information on youth-related issues;

- Other activities and projects identified by Governments and youth-related organizations as necessary for the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth.

Governments, non-governmental organizations, foundations and individuals can make financial contributions to the Fund or for specific purposes in accordance with the terms of reference of the Fund. Contributions to the United Nations Youth Fund can either be sent to the United Nations Office at Vienna through a Field Office of the United Nations Development Programme or deposited in the United Nations General Fund Deposit Account (number 015-005291) at the Chemical Bank, United Nations Branch, New York, NY 10017, United States of America, or they can be transferred to account number 0112-75005/00 at the Creditanstalt Bankverein, Vienna International Centre Branch, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, with an indication that the contribution is for the United Nations Youth Fund.

For further information, contact: United Nations Youth Fund, United Nations Office at Vienna, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

Youth and the IYF

The statement that the issues of youth development and family well-being are intrinsically related may be a truism, but no family policy can be adequately formulated without considering youth as a main target group. Issues pertaining to family formation, family life and sex education, family dislocation, and corresponding policy measures clearly have an impact on young people.

Families, as the basic units of society, are beset by numerous problems that have weakened family structure and functions. Such problems include the inability of many families to provide the necessary support to their members, family instability and the lack of programmes to prepare young people for family responsibilities.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/82, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family (IYF), and endorsed the objectives and principles for the Year. It designated the Commission for Social Development the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Council as the coordinating body for the Year.

The objectives of the Year are to stimulate local, national and international action as part of a sustained effort to accomplish the following:

- To increase awareness of family issues among Governments as well as in the private sector by highlighting the importance of the family; increasing understanding of its functions and problems; promoting knowledge of the economic, social and demographic processes affecting the family and its members; and focusing attention on the rights and responsibilities of all family members;

- To strengthen national institutions to formulate, implement and monitor policies in respect of the family;

- To stimulate efforts to respond to problems affecting, and affected by, the situation of the family;

- To enhance the effectiveness of local, regional and national efforts to carry out specific programmes concerning the family by generating new activities and strengthening existing ones;

- To improve the collaboration between national and international organizations in support of multisectoral activities;

- To build upon the results of international activities concerning women, children, youth, the aged and the disabled, as well as of other major events of concern to the family or its individual members.

The increasing proportion of youth in many countries suggests the need for adequate educational opportunities to reduce the drop-out rate and increase the enrolment level, for expansion of employment opportunities to provide the basis for family life as well as for family life education. Increasing attention may be given to the role of families in the education, guidance and socialization of young people and in facilitating their transition from adolescence to responsible adulthood and the world of work.

Various meetings organized by CSDHA in the period from 1988 to 1991 have touched upon the relationships between youth and the family. Some points that can be distilled from the deliberations of these meetings are:

(a) An integrated national youth policy should be an integral component of the national development planning process. Countries are encouraged to elaborate and develop national youth policies. This should be done within a review of general development policies and their effect on the integration of all sectors of the population, especially on the integration of youth in the economic

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life of the country. Family issues are organically linked to an integrated youth policy;

(b) Sectoral policies affecting the family should be further developed in order to reinforce the family's role in the socialization, education and support of young people. Increasing family income and providing family guidance, education (for parents and future parents), community development, welfare, housing, family planning and family health care should also be goals of family policies.

Division for the Advancement of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women, to which the Division for the Advancement of Women of UNOV/CSDHA provides substantive servicing, held its thirty-sixth session at the Vienna International Centre from 11 to 20 March 1992. The session was opened by the Director of the Division, on behalf of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. In her introductory statement, the Director said that it was important to reaffirm the goal of equality between women and men and its linkage with the objectives of development, democracy, human rights and justice. She stressed that the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held at Beijing in 1995, presented a good opportunity for the Commission to give impetus to efforts for the advancement of women.

The agenda of the session included priority themes and preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace.

Under priority themes, particularly the sub-item of development, many representatives recalled the crucial importance of the contributions of women of all ages to all aspects of development. They indicated that improving the education of women and girls, and ensuring the participation of women at all levels and in all areas of decision-making, were considered essential conditions for women to fulfil their potential in development.

In connection with the preparations for the World Conference, several representatives stressed the need for a strong focus of the Conference on the girl child, and the different stages of women's lives.

The Commission drafted resolutions on various issues including the environment, human rights, violence against women, the family, the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, and women and children under apartheid. One resolution urged Governments to identify their own targets in such fields as education and training, employment, income generation, health, and women in public life with regard to the full integration in development and to commit adequate resources to women and development programmes.

A young African woman bagging rice with the help of her child.
Photo: FAO/G. Tortoly

News from the regional commissions

ESCAP

Seminar on the effects of new technologies on the working life of young people

Current industrial and technological developments, while increasing productivity, have exacted a toll on quality of life of young workers in terms of occupational hazards, long hours of work, poor job security, inadequate remuneration and benefits, limited education and skills training etc.

To tackle this important issue, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held a seminar on the effects of new technologies on the working life of young people. The seminar, convened from 28 September to 2 October 1992, at Shenghen, China, has been organized in cooperation with the All-China Youth Federation and UNOV/CSDHA, which has provided financial assistance from the United Nations Youth Fund.

The seminar brought together 13 participants (experts, policy makers and development planners) from 13 countries of the region of Asia and the Pacific to make recommendations on future-oriented policies concerning the development of new technologies and the working life of young people in the region. Such recommendations will assist countries in the region in formulating national youth policies and constitute inputs to technical assistance provided by ESCAP to countries in that region.

The seminar aimed at contributing to the formulation of comprehensive national youth policies in consonance with the broader social development strategies in the region. In this connection, it was expected that the seminar would examine the impact of rapid technological changes on critical issues affecting youth, namely, the effects of biotechnology, micro-electronics etc. on the working environment and lifestyles of young people.

A young Afghan working in a vocational training centre in Pakistan.
Photo: UNICEF/J. Isaac

Included in the seminar were discussions on the implications for young people of regional trends in the application of new technology, industrial restructuring for human resource development and existing training programmes and facilities.

News from research centres and institutes

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

During 1991, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) carried out several activities in the field of youth.

Street children. UNICRI published the proceedings of a seminar on street children, held at Buenos Aires in 1990, as part of a cooperation agreement between UNICRI, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Defence for Children International, and the Inter-American Children's Institute (UNICRI, publication No. 42, *Ser niño en América Latina*).

The deliberations of a second seminar on street children, held in Chile in 1991, resulted in two research projects. One of those projects, which resulted in a joint UNICRI/ILANUD publication entitled *Infancia, adolescencia y control social en América Latina*, focused on trials in juvenile courts and follow-up family assistance. The second project dealt with young people from marginal urban areas in the region who repeat years at or drop out from school.

Training of social workers. Plans are being made for the training course for social workers working with juvenile offenders, originally held in 1990 at Tunisia, to be replicated in Algeria, Morocco and Oman. The objective of the course would be to promote better coordination of social and legal responses to juvenile offenders within the regions of the Maghreb and Western Asia.

School drug abuse prevention. The Institute has implemented a pilot project on training teachers responsible for activities aimed at the prevention of drug abuse among secondary school students. The project involved training courses and follow-up activities and focused on the development of motivation and attitudes necessary to utilize prevention and support materials. A two-volume handbook, videotapes and brochures have been developed.

Pilot projects for secondary school teachers have been set up in Italy and Malta, and feasibility studies have been undertaken, at the

Street children and youth in Brazil.

request of the Governments of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Mauritius, to adapt the original design to national circumstances.

School prevention security. As there are indications that the age at which young people come into contact with drugs for the first time is continuously decreasing, drug abuse prevention projects should also be targeted at the pre-teen group and should seek to provide role models for children. In an effort to enhance communication between young people and the authorities, in this case the control agencies and the community, a training programme for police officers has been prepared to complement school drug abuse prevention programmes. Based on initiatives carried out in Canada, Mexico and the United States of America, it is hoped that this project, which brings together young people and policemen with appropriate training in communication and the prevention of drug abuse and delinquency will help to promote healthy lifestyles and reinforce young people's self-esteem and self-confidence.

News from agencies and bodies of the United Nations system

United Nations Development Programme

Youth Employment in Zambia: Collaboration with HOPE '87

In Zambia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been providing support to the governmental programme to address the issue of youth employment. Self-Employment Promotion for School Leavers is a project that provides business and technical training for young people and assists them regarding the management of loan guarantee funds. A programme is under preparation focusing on small enterprise promotion and development that will build on the experience gained during the implementation of the project. It is expected that HOPE '87 (Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment) will collaborate with UNDP in implementing the project.

In the immediate future, the UNDP Office at Lusaka, Zambia, will make information available on HOPE '87 to non-governmental organizations in Zambia, since many of their programmes relate to employment and income-generation, with a focus on youth and women.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

Current status of the living environment of youth in human settlements

The view that young people are closely involved in the process of human settlement development, in particular in relation to their need to establish their own household, is discussed in the contribution of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the report on the global situation of youth, currently under preparation at UNOV/CSDHA (see *Youth Information Bulletin*, vol. 3, No. 76). The economic burden of setting up a household for the first time is a problem typically encountered by youth. This issue is directly related to the functioning of the housing market and the dynamics of supply and demand. Consideration of the housing market, particularly in relation to new entrants into this market, requires that related issues have to be studied carefully. The issue of the availability of land to the young entrants into the housing market, for example, should be analysed. Likewise, a discussion of financial issues is essential to an understanding of the housing market in general and the problems involved for new entrants and for youth in particular.

The creation of job opportunities is also closely related to human settlements development policies; not only must jobs be created, but they must be created in areas with an adequate supply of housing and related services and vice versa. Other important issues in the scope of human settlements development that require consideration include community participation and the availability of community services such as schools, parks, playgrounds, sports facilities, youth centres and libraries. The physical quality of the living environment of youth, which includes places where they live, study, spend time for recreation or engage in other individual and communal activities, is also important. More research is needed on the current status of the living environment of youth in human settlements and the trends regarding youth involvement in improving their living conditions.

United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development

Involvement of youth in the protection of the environment

In the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) on the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, which met in New York from 2 March to 3 April 1992 (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.13), the need for strengthening the role of youth in environment protection was highlighted (see *Youth Information Bulletin*, vol. 2/1991, No. 75).

The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/228, and the Preparatory Committee, in its decision 1/25 on the environment and development and decisions 1/28 and 2/6 on cross-sectoral issues promoting the effective participation of young people in environment and development issues, recognized the valuable role youth can and should play in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development.

Advancing the role of youth and actively involving them in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development is identified as a programme area. The basis for action is the assumption that young people will inherit the planet and need, therefore, to participate actively in decision-making processes that have implications for their future. The five following objectives are identified in the report regarding the involvement of youth in environment-related issues:

(a) The establishment of a mechanism by each country for a mutually productive dialogue with youth by 1995;

(b) The establishment by each country of a national youth advisory board by 1995;

(c) The enrolment of more than 50 per cent of the youth of each country in appropriate secondary schools by 1999;

(d) The decrease of current levels of youth unemployment by 50 per cent by 1999;

(e) The creation of an international advisory council by the United Nations by 1999.

Suggested activities to be carried out by Governments include creating administrative and organizational structures; implementing policies and other legal instruments; reviewing existing youth programmes; supporting administrative and financial requirements of youth programmes, networks, youth non-governmental organizations and national youth organizations in order to assist in their communication with Governments; including youth-related programmes in overall development project portfolios; and involving youth in project identification, design, implementation and follow-up.

News from specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Food Day 1992

The theme of World Food Day in October 1992, "Food and Nutrition", has been chosen to coincide with the International Conference on Nutrition, scheduled to be held at Rome in December 1992. The Conference is being organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, Governments and bilateral development agencies. It will be the first global intergovernmental meeting on nutrition. The Conference is intended to focus world attention on nutritional problems and needs and encourage all countries and international organizations to develop concrete plans for solving them.

On World Food Day, 16 October 1992, the need for nutritional well-being through better food security for all people was highlighted. Emphasis was placed on the need for all people at all times to have access to the basic food necessary for leading an active and healthy life, with focus on developing agriculture as the basis for better food supplies, improved incomes and more jobs.

Activities on World Food Day 1992 also encouraged programmes to promote home and community gardening and raising small animals as an important part of assuring family and household food security. Youth groups are encouraged to initiate school gardens or orchards.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Youthworks*, information note on rural youth and young farmers (1992), vol. 6, No. 1.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Council of Europe

Second European Youth Week

The Council of Europe organized its second European Youth Week, which brought together over 250 young people from all parts of Europe at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, from 12 to 19 July 1992. Under the general theme "Youth Participation in Democratic Societies", the participants worked on a variety of topics, including European identity, environment, North-South interdependence, employment, participation in society and drugs.

While the programme was structured as a summer university, it offered a wide range of fringe activities accessible to the general public, including an exhibition on the work of governmental and non-governmental structures in Europe and the world relating to young peoples' lives. Representatives of organizations were invited to participate in the exhibition with a stand, posters, files or documentation, in order to introduce their organization's aims and activities.

The main programme of the Week was a forum entailing several activities, including cultural events, held from 13 to 17 July 1992. The forum also served as an information centre where visitors could discover, at first hand, data on organizations, projects and programmes, youth exchanges and voluntary service.

For further information, contact: European Youth Foundation, Council of Europe, B.P. 431 R6, F-67000 Strasbourg CEDEX, France.

European Communities

Priority actions in the youth field

Further to the memorandum of the Commission of the European Communities, on young people in the European Communities, the ministers responsible for youth matters in the member States of the European Communities adopted a resolution on priority actions in the youth field on 26 June 1991. At the end of that year, the European Parliament created a budget line enabling the Communities to accord financial support to priority actions in the youth field (see *Youth Information Bulletin*, vol. 3/1991, No. 76).

Action III of the resolution aims to stimulate the initiative and creativity of young people in the Communities, taking into account the rich diversity of their backgrounds in cultural, ethnic and socio-economic terms. The implementation of Action III will enable young people to receive support for concrete initiatives in social or cultural projects on local heritage, environmental protection and information or animation projects.

Youth pilot projects for which the Commission will consider funding in this context should stress the direct and active participation of young people between 15 and 25 years of age in innovative and creative initiatives at the local level. The Commission is particularly interested in projects which could be used as examples in other member States or which could lead to some form of cooperation or network between the young people involved.

Youth pilot projects are aimed at all young people without exception and should promote cooperation and equal opportunities among young people at the local level. If the population of a given local community is composed of groups from different ethnic, cultural or linguistic backgrounds, the Commission will give priority to projects which mirror this diversity and which aim to develop cooperation and tolerance between the different groups.

Youth pilot projects should encourage young people to become more aware of their belonging to the European Communities. The projects should serve to promote the active citizenship of young people at all levels and should lead to the development of harmonious cooperation, while fully respecting cultural differences between young people throughout the countries of the European Communities.

For further information, contact: the European Communities Youth Exchange Bureau (ECYEB), 2/3 Place du Luxembourg, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

Fourth European Congress on continuing education and training

The fourth European Congress on continuing education and training is a joint project which was developed at the third Congress at Berlin in March 1991, and was based on the political and economic changes shaping central and Eastern Europe and the forthcoming European Single Market. The fourth European Congress was a congress on wheels. Five regional and national conferences on continuing education and training were connected by a specially equipped train, the "Euro-Train for Training", forming a single event. The journey commenced at Berlin on 5 October 1992 and, following stops at Warsaw, Prague, Budapest and Vienna, the train returned to Berlin on 10 October 1992. Participants at the Congress had the opportunity to take part in five conferences within five days. They participated in workshops and discussions, and acquainted themselves with training projects and requirements in the countries by visiting local training centres.

The harmonization of varying training standards and national conditions for implementing continuing training policies requires interna-

tional cooperation. The aim of the fourth Congress was to provide a forum for exchanging views for all individuals and institutions involved in continuing training, qualification and retraining. The Congress will provide experts with an opportunity to demonstrate national continuing training programmes. It also enabled participants to discuss forms of international cooperation and mutual support and, as a result, plan new projects.

For further information, contact: BBJ Servis, GmbH, Alt Moabit 73, D-1000 Berlin 21, Germany.

South Pacific Commission

This year, the Victoria University of Technology (Australia) will be offering a new course on community development in the South Pacific and Asia with the goal of providing education and training to those who are striving towards, or already are working in, community projects in the region. Vocational fields covered by the course include the following: coordinators and extension workers in community-based agencies; youth and youth workers; research and policy workers in community services; environmental workers; and field staff and project workers in non-governmental development agencies.

The main focus will be on participatory and democratic styles of community work and social action as well as maximum utilization of case studies and resources relating to the region of Asia and the Pacific. Overseas students may register for the course; those seeking Australian Government scholarships and sponsored awards should apply directly to the Victoria University of Technology.

For further information, contact: Dr. Michael Hamel-Green (Course Coordinator), Faculty of Humanities, Victoria University of Technology, St. Albans Campus, McKechnie Street, St. Albans, Victoria 3021, Australia.

COUNTRY NEWS: GOVERNMENTAL YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Austria

Youth project: Grenzenlos

The Youth Departments of the regions of Salzburg, Vorarlberg and the Tyrol have organized a joint project called "*Grenzenlos* (Without frontiers): Chances for young people in Europe", which started on 25 May 1992 and will last until summer 1993. The aim of the project is to provide young people between 14 and 26 years of age with extensive information in order to stimulate interest in opportunities in foreign countries, whether for education, leisure time, cultural programmes or work. For this purpose, projects for young people and youth groups in foreign countries and international events in Austria will be promoted. In the summer of 1993, a handbook will be published with information on institutions and offers for stays for young people in European countries, as well as on personal experiences of the participants. In addition, "Eurocamps" will take place at Salzburg, and in the Tyrol and Vorarlberg in the summer of 1993.

For further information, contact:

For Salzburg: Landesjugendreferat
Kaigasse 32
A-5020 Salzburg

For the Tyrol: Abteilung TUFF — Jugendreferat
Michael-Gaismairstrasse 1
A-6020 Innsbruck

For Vorarlberg: Jugend- und Familienreferat
Landhaus
A-6900 Bregenz

China

Training programmes for young Chinese workers

At present, there are nearly 210,000 full-time and several million part-time youth workers in China, working in factories, stores, schools, neighbourhood committees, rural townships and other grassroots units, as well as in party and State organs at various levels. Their tasks are the following: *(a)* to guide and develop youth work programmes and provide government organs at all levels with information for decison-making; *(b)* to educate, guide and help young people foster a positive life outlook and values; *(c)* to organize youth to study current affairs and foreign and domestic policies and to acquire professional, scientific and general knowledge; *(d)* to show concern about their work and life and safeguard their lawful rights and interests; and *(e)* to conduct recreational and sports activities.

The training programmes can be divided into four different types: on-the-job professional training, short-term professional training, on-the-job make-up training and college training of graduates of secondary schools for careers as professional youth workers. The first type of programme aims at augmenting the professional knowledge and skill of well-schooled youth workers. The second type renews trainees' professional knowledge while they are at work. Trainees are expected to study current events, new national policies and the latest development in youth work. The third type is intended to

systematically raise the level of trainees' scientific knowledge and ability. The fourth type, which extends over a period of four years, enables youth workers to get in touch with youth organizations at all levels.

At present, the training programmes are mainly undertaken by some 60 special training bodies at national, provincial and prefectural levels. It is estimated that about 109 million professional youth workers have been trained since 1978. Grassroots youth organizations are relied upon for training young people who have part-time work. Also, a national youth workers' audiovisual training centre has been set up. Similar centres will be established at the provincial, prefectural and country levels to form a nationwide network of audio-visual education for youth workers.

Source: International Department, All-China Youth Federation, *ACYF Information*, October-December 1991.

Germany

Advisory Centre for Drug Addiction among Youth

The Psychosocial Service of the Advisory Centre for Drug Addiction among Youth (Jugend und Drogenberatungszentrum) in Hannover, Germany, is interested in getting in touch with drug therapists or similar experts abroad to exchange ideas and experiences. The Centre is engaged in many drug-related projects that may be of interest to individuals and institutions dealing with the issue at the national or international level.

The Centre is experiencing difficulties in finding the names and addresses of magazines, journals, bulletins etc., which publish in English articles on aspects of drug addiction, the practical and programmatic sides of drug abuse among youth, its prevention and the rehabilitation of young drug addicts. Any assistance is most welcome.

For further information, contact: Mr. Edgar L. Sosa, Jugend and Drogenberatungszentrum, Psychosoziale Beratungsstelle, Schlosswenderstrasse 12A, D-3000 Hannover 1, Germany.

India

Rural Development and Youth Training Institute

Having poor people as the target population and dealing with rural development through training, the Rural Development and Youth Training Institute in Kota District (Rajasthan), India, has been operating for eight years. Its main activities include rural youth training programmes, youth organizations, tribal women's organizations, health education, legal education, environmental education, social-awareness building and community development.

The Institute is interested in participating in United Nations activities and activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly workshops and conferences.

For more information, contact: Rural Development and Youth Training Institute, 1K22, Dadabari, Kota-324009, Rajasthan, India.

Israel

Programme for prevention of drug and alcohol abuse

The results of a survey conducted several years ago in Israel showed that 26 per cent of the youth population used drugs, 6 per cent on a regular basis. To tackle this problem, as well as the problem of alcohol abuse among youth, the Youth Division of the Ministry of Education and Culture has launched the programme "Life without drugs".

The purpose of the programme, which was created in 1989, is to provide an educational component as part of drug abuse preventive measures aimed at youth. Based on the behaviour modification model, the programme integrates three approaches: the information/knowledge approach, the attitudes/values approach and the decision-making/social capability approach. The method of the programme consists of a systematic arrangement of educational activities implemented in group settings by employees of the Youth Promotion Bureau in local districts, through intervention in the community and the immediate environment. "Life without drugs" comprises five basic components:

- Standard deterrent information;
- Attitudes and values regarding drugs;
- Behavioural skills for coping with drug situations;
- Community activity and involvement;
- "Exchanges", alternative lifestyles that allow a person to achieve his or her potential.

The target population is young people between 14 and 18 years of age who are disengaged from formal education. Emphasis is put on the situation of those teenagers who are exposed to the use of drugs and alcohol in their families, social environment and community.

Source: Division for Social and Youth Education, Ministry of Education and Culture, 1 Devora Hanevia Street, Jerusalem, 91191 Israel.

Malaysia

Resource centre for youth development

Having been designated as a resource centre for youth development by the National Youth Consultative Council at its meeting on 5 May 1991, the International Youth Centre at Kuala Lumpur is in the process of increasing the scope of its functions.

The Centre, which will also act as an information centre for national and international youth, will be provided with documents and materials on youth work and activities. Support and cooperation are needed, however, from various organizations in order to gather more documents and materials for the Resource Centre.

Youth or researchers who need information in their working process are welcome to make full use of the Centre's facilities.

For more information, contact: International Youth Centre Foundation, Jalan Tenteram, Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras 56000, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Source: IYC News, vol. 003, December 1991.

Nicaragua

World Youth Programme of Action

The Ministry of Education has designed a National Action Plan of Education for All. The general objectives of the Plan are to provide greater opportunities for basic education to children, to bring about a qualitative improvement in education services with the participation of all sectors of society, to achieve literacy in young people and adults under the age of 40 by the end of this decade, and to coordinate and integrate the various levels of the educational system.

The general strategies of the Plan are the following: *(a)* to direct efforts to extend education to all sectors of the population; *(b)* to put particular emphasis on the planning and introduction of information education programmes designed to meet the comprehensive needs of children; *(c)* to encourage community participation in the management of the educational system; and *(d)* to ease the financial burden of the State in providing educational services.

The Plan is divided into two components, the first medium term (1990-1996) and the second medium term (1997-2002), and the two major substantive contents of the Plan are: *(a)* primary education and literacy training; and *(b)* basic education for young people and adults.

Papua New Guinea

Literacy project

Papua New Guinea has a relatively high rate of illiteracy compared with other countries in the region of Asia and the Pacific: almost half the people are illiterate and two out of three of those people are young women.

The language and literacy policy for the country states that children, youth and adult men and women should learn to read and write in the language they know best. Once they become literate in their own language, they should be encouraged to transfer their literacy into Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu or English.

The literacy programmes of Papua New Guinea are community-based, bringing together advisers and local people who are involved in developing and producing teaching materials and programmes, teaching and supervising classes.

National and provincial education departments, non-governmental organizations and local communities have set up literacy programmes for children, adults, youth and women in Papua New Guinea. Classes in basic literacy and fluency lead to transfer classes, in which people are encouraged to use their literacy skills for communication, creativity and the expression of new ideas as well as for personal growth and development.

For further details, write to: Literacy and Awareness Secretariat, Curriculum Development Division, Department of Education, Private Mail Bag, Boroko, NCD Papua New Guinea.

Source: South Pacific Commission, *Youth Link*, No. 38, October-December 1991.

Spain

Inter-Ministerial Commission for Youth and Childhood

The Government of Spain has established the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Youth and Childhood to plan policies for the 1990s. The Integral Plan of Youth, a programme of measures to be taken by governmental ministries in Spain, will attempt to assess the varying situations and experiences of young people in order to facilitate their social integration and stimulate the development of the positive aspects in the life of young people.

For young people who are trying to bring into equilibrium the opportunities available to them in relation to those available to adults, the Plan will support, through positive action, youth having needs with respect to education, employment, sanitation or housing. Priority will be given to young people who have had less training, who display more difficulties in being integrated in the labour force or who are at major risk of social marginalization.

Substantial resources will be contributed to youth programmes and their execution by the ministries involved. They will try to gather a maximum of institutional and associated strengths so as to harmonize as much as possible action by youth non-governmental organizations and public administration.

The objectives of the Plan include the following five areas of focus:

- Education, training and employment: the promotion of professional training and improved quality of education;
- Quality of life: the betterment of housing access, health, consumerism, sport practice, culture, research, tourism, the environment, substitutional social lending, military service and youth information;
- Equal opportunities: initiatives designed for advancing equal opportunities amongst youth and other groups displaying social integration difficulties (gypsy communities, disabled youths, victims of adolescent abuse, people in and out of penitentiaries, and people who have dropped out of school);
- Participation and association: fostering the harmonization of discussion and communal action in order to solve youth problems;
- International cooperation: attempting to make known, to as many young people as possible, community programmes that offer opportunities, economical tourist and exchange services, promotion of social tourism for young people with scarce resources, and connection of the European network of youth information extending to all Latin American countries.

For further information, contact: Instituto de la Juventud, Ministry of Social Affairs, José Ortega y Gasset, 71, 28006 Madrid, Spain.

NEWS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

International level

HOPE '87

Youth unemployment has a variety of causes in different regions. It gives rise to problems, however, that are similar in all countries. For this reason, it is necessary to review the issue in a global perspective.

HOPE '87 (Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment) perceives the major causes of youth unemployment to be over-population, illiteracy and inappropriate educational systems. Most developing countries are facing problems of rapid urbanization, a problem often complicated by regional conflicts, ethnic crises and political instability. In Eastern Europe, the dramatic political changes and the transition from a planned to a market economy have resulted in a growing number of unemployed and socially disadvantaged youths. In countries with a more developed market economy, in spite of economic growth and the ageing of the population, youth unemployment is still a serious threat to social peace and one of the main factors leading to drug abuse and other social ills.

It has been suggested at HOPE '87 that the United Nations can contribute to a global response to youth unemployment and related issues by taking the following steps:

- Assisting countries in putting into practice modern concepts of family planning;
- Guiding countries in restructuring their educational and administrative systems;
- Supporting Member States by providing, through existing agencies, information, education and vocational training in such a manner that young people learn to think more creatively and to act on their own initiative;
- Launching a global campaign to generate employment opportunities for youth;
- Supporting the organizations working on issues concerning youth employment and unemployment;
- Encouraging, without the involvement of bureaucratic channels, small-scale industries, handicrafts and projects initiated in the informal sector;
- Contributing to the regionalization of development activities with special care to local values and cultural identities;
- Elaborating socially acceptable mechanisms for increasing the participation of young women in the development of their national economies.

It was further suggested that the international community should elaborate methods for writing off the debts of certain countries.

For further information, contact: HOPE '87, Secretariat, Kolingasse 15, A-1090 Vienna, Austria.

Regional level

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Under the aegis of the National Committee of Finnish Youth Organisations (SNT) and the Council of European National Youth Committees (CENYC), a youth conference was held on security and cooperation in Europe from 9 to 12 April 1992 at Vantaa, Finland.

The youth conference was organized to bring the views and concerns of European youth to the attention of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which was held from March to June 1992 at Helsinki, Finland.

The youth conference discussed the relationship of youth organizations to CSCE, the situation of nationalities and minorities, European security policy, environmental issues etc. As a result of the conference, a policy statement was prepared for the attention of government delegations to CSCE at Helsinki.

Source: National Committee of Finnish Youth Organisations, Nokiantie 4, 00510 Helsinki, Finland.

World Scout Bureau, Asia-Pacific region

Summit Conference

The top professional Scouts of 15 national Scout associations in the region of Asia and the Pacific met from 1 to 15 December 1991 at the Philippines Scouting Centre at Mt. Makiking, Philippines, for the first Top Professional Summit Conference.

Representatives from Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the Conference.

The Defence Minister of Pakistan, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, who is the Chief Commissioner of the Pakistan Boy Scouts Association, was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony.

The Conference was seen as a trend-setter for future meetings of top Scout professionals in the region. It gave participants the opportunity of bringing to the attention of the regional office their specific requests and needs for assistance in fields such as youth programmes, adult leadership, management and finance, public relations, community development and membership growth.

The Summit Conference was organized by the World Scout Bureau, Asia-Pacific region, under the leadership of Executive Commissioner Kim Kyu Young, who acted as the Conference director. Jim Sharp, Director for Programmes at the World Scout Bureau, Geneva, also provided technical assistance.

The 17th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference will take place in Indonesia from 9 to 14 November 1992. The theme of that Conference will be "Paris to Bangkok via Jakarta — a Road to Scouting Growth".

For further information, contact: World Scout Bureau, Asia-Pacific region, P.O. Box 7369, DAPO, Passay City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

Family planning field work of a Philippine midwife. Photo: J. Wagner

Editor's note

The *Youth Information Bulletin* is published three times a year by UNOV/CSDHA, Youth Policies and Programmes Unit. It is issued in English, French and Spanish. The *Bulletin* serves as a major channel of communications between youth and the United Nations system. It provides an information exchange service to youth, non-governmental youth organizations, governmental youth ministries and departments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations concerned with youth matters.

All information in the *Bulletin* may be used for any purpose. However, an acknowledgement should be made of the source.

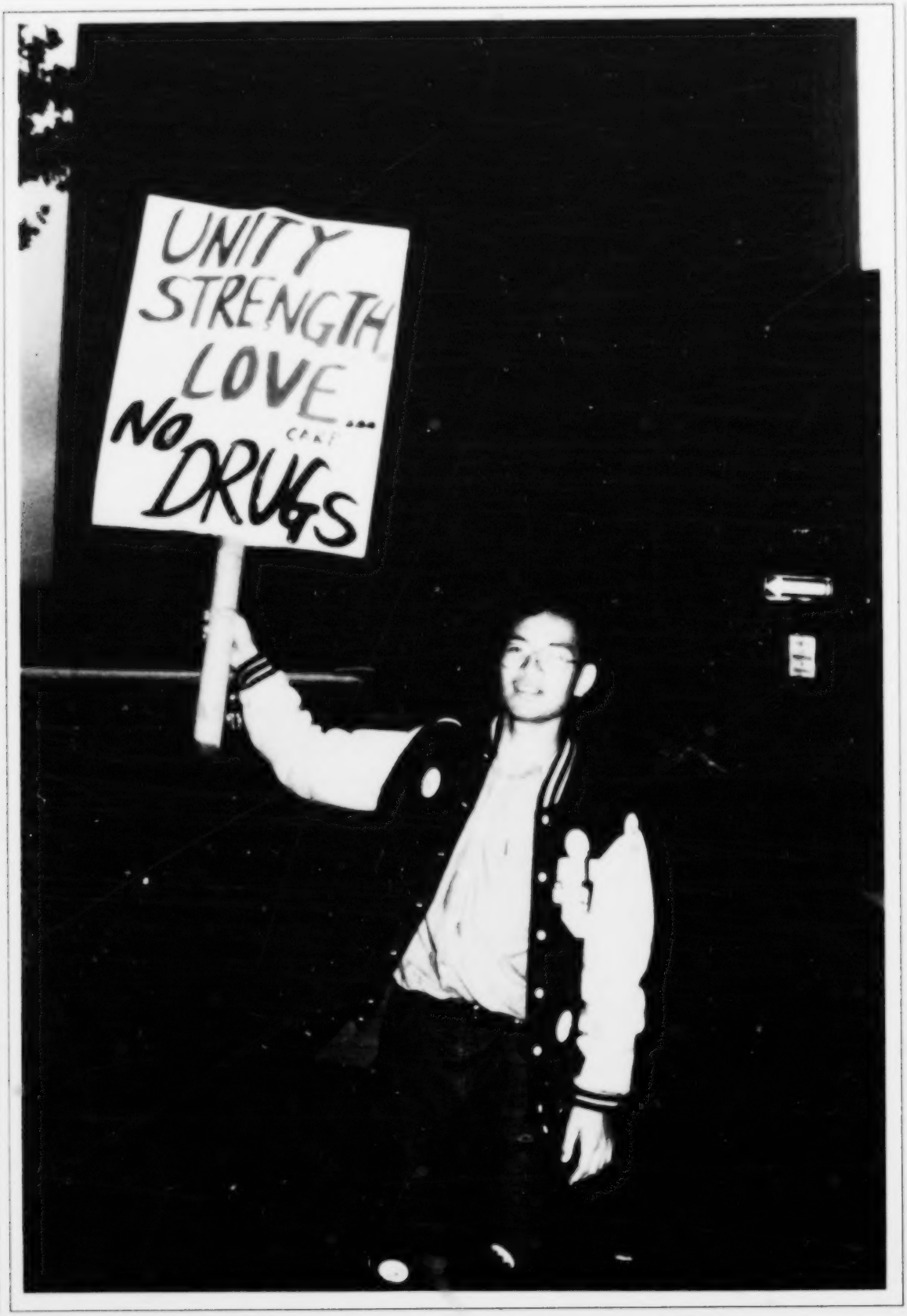
The Editor of the *Bulletin* welcomes articles on youth policies and programmes, as well as information on youth conferences and publications. As the *Bulletin* is prepared in English at the beginning of March, July and November each year, contributions should reach the Youth Policies and Programmes Unit by the middle of February, June or October. The contributions should be sent to:

Editor, *Youth Information Bulletin*
Youth Policies and Programmes Unit
Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna
Austria

CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL YOUTH MEETINGS: 1992

Date	*Title/activity*	*Venue*	*Contact*
24-27 March	**First Inter-African Conference on Adolescent Health**	**Nairobi, Kenya**	
9-12 April	**Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Youth Conference**	**Helsinki, Finland**	**National Committee of Finnish Youth Organisations (SNT) Hamentie 6A.10 SF-00350 Helsinki Finland**
11-30 April	**UNCED Preparatory Conference for Youth of the Region of Asia and the Pacific**	**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**	**Asian Students Association (ASA) 511 Nathan Road 1/F Kowloon, Hong Kong**
April	**World Assembly of Youth National Training Workshop for Young Women on Literacy, Adult Education and Population**	**Mauritius**	
29 April-3 May	**Executive Committee of the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA)**	**Geneva, Switzerland**	**World Alliance of YMCAs 37 Quai Wilson 1201 Geneva Switzerland**
7-12 May	**Commonwealth Youth Affairs (CYAC)**	**Malé, Maldives**	**Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) Marlborough House, Pall Mall London, SWIY THX United Kingdom**
11-15 May	**World Assembly of Youth Asian Regional Youth Population and Resources Workshop**	**Malaysia**	
14-17 May	**Youth Participation Seminar**	**Brussels, Belgium**	**Council of European National Youth Committees (CENYC) 8 Avenue des Courses B-1050 Brussels, Belgium**
2-8 June	**Global Youth Summit on Environment and Development**	**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**	**Worldlink Foundation 8755 West Colgate Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90048 United States**

Date	Title/activity	Venue	Contact
15-17 June	20th Anniversary of the Asian Youth Council (AYC) AYC Sixth General Assembly	AYC Secretariat	52 International Youth Centre Jalau Teuteram Bandar Tua Rzak, Chera 56000 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Tel.: 603-971 7373 Fax: 603-971 6700 Cable: Asia Youth Kuala Lumpur
16-19 June	First International Conference on Girls and Girlhood: "Transitions and Dilemmas"	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Vrije University Conference Services de Boelelaan 1105 1081 HV Amsterdam Netherlands
26 June-3 July	World Congress of the International Federation of Musical Youth	Barcelona, Spain	International Federation of Musical Youth 10 Rue Royal Barcelona Spain
3-5 July	Young European Movement Annual Summer School "Europe of the Regions"	Egham, Surrey, United Kingdom	Young European Movement 1 Whitehall Place London, SW1A 2DA United Kingdom
12-17 July	XVII Inter-American Scout Conference	Costa Rica	
25 July-1 August	Y's Men International Council Meeting and Convention	Oslo, Norway	World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations 37 Quai Wilson 1201 Geneva Switzerland
4-5 September	Second International Conference on AIDS and Street Youth	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	HIV Adolescent Studies Group 722 West 168 Street New York, NY 10032 United States or: Barow de Lucena 32 Botafogo Rio de Janeiro Brazil
3 December	45th Anniversary Congress of the United Nations Student Association of Leiden on the Changing of the United Nations	Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands	United Nations Student Association of Leiden (SIB) Hugo de Crootstraat 27 2311XK Leiden Netherlands
16-17 December	Charter Review Committee Meeting	London, United Kingdom	World Assembly of Youth (WAY) Ved Bellahoj 4 2700 Bronshoj, Denmark



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